

REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed contemporaneously herewith. Applicants request reconsideration of the above-identified application in light of the amendments and remarks described herein.

Claims 15-23 and 25-32 are pending in this application. Claims 15, 19, 23, and 26 have been amended, and Claims 29 and 31 have been canceled.

Claims 15-23, 25, and 27-32 have been rejected. Claims 26, 29, 31, and 15 have been indicated as allowable for various reasons described in greater detail below. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 15, 19, 23, 29, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action states that the limitation "an unfolded, static condition," as recited in Claims 15, 23, and 31, and "an unfolded, static state," as recited in Claims 19 and 29, are considered new matter. Applicants disagree with the rejection. However, in order to expedite allowance of the application, applicants have removed this language from the claims. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 26 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, Claims 29 and 31 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening

claims and to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as described above. Claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form to overcome the objection, and the limitations of Claims 29 and 31 have been added to Claims 19 and 23, respectively, to put Claims 19 and 23 into allowable form. Accordingly, Claims 29 and 31 have been canceled.

Further, Claim 15 has been indicated as allowable on page 7, paragraph 7, of the Office Action if the term "without substantially twisting" is replaced with "without twisting." Applicants have entered this amendment for Claim 15 to put it into allowable form.

Again, applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 15, 16, 19, 20, 27, 28, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,447,037, issued to Crouch (hereinafter "Crouch"). In addition, Claims 17, 18, 21-23, 25, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crouch in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,216,319, issued to Elkins. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claims 15, 19, and 23 all recite methods of using a coupling device for providing redundant attachment between an arm of a user and a device having a closed handle. Claim 15, as currently amended, generally recites a method including obtaining a coupling device having first and second ends. The first end includes a first loop defining a first opening, wherein the first loop is oriented in a substantially open position. The second end includes a second loop defining a second, larger opening. The method further includes routing either the first loop or the second loop through the closed handle, moving a distal tip of the second loop toward the first opening without twisting the coupling device about a longitudinal axis of the coupling device, inserting the second loop through the first opening without twisting the coupling device about the longitudinal axis of the coupling device, and pulling the second loop through the first opening to

tighten the coupling device to the closed handled device without twisting the coupling device about the longitudinal axis of the coupling device.

Claim 19 and 23, as currently amended, generally recite methods including obtaining a coupling device having first and second ends. The first end includes a first loop defining a first opening and the second end includes a second loop defining a second opening, wherein the coupling device has a first side and a second side, and wherein the first loop defining the first opening is formed by attaching a portion of the first side to a portion of the second side, such that the first loop is oriented in a substantially open position. The methods further include routing either the first loop or the second loop through the closed handle, moving a distal tip of the second loop toward the first opening without twisting the coupling device more than 45 degrees from a longitudinal axis of the coupling device, inserting the second loop through the first opening without twisting the coupling device more than 45 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the coupling device, and pulling the second loop through the first opening to tighten the coupling device to the closed handled device without twisting the coupling device more than 45 degrees from the longitudinal axis of the coupling device.

As discussed above, Claim 15 has been amended to replace the term "without substantially twisting" with "without twisting" to put the claim into allowable form. In addition, Claims 19 and 23 have been amended to recite the limitations in allowable Claims 29 and 31 to put Claims 19 and 23 into allowable form.

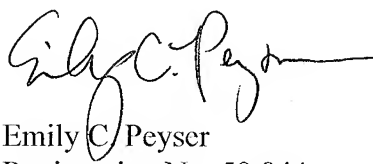
For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 15, 19, and 23 and all claims depending therefrom are not obvious over Crouch. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of all claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative with any remaining questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}



Emily C. Peyser
Registration No. 59,844
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1634

ECP:ejh

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206 682 8100